

Dear Auburn Football Players and Parents,

May 14, 2025

Thank you so much for attending our meeting tonight. My name is Aaron Chantler and I am the head coach. This will be my eighth season as head coach of the Trojans and we can't wait for the season to kick off. I grew up in Tacoma attending Wilson High School before leaving to play football and baseball at Linfield College. After injuring my shoulder during my freshman year at Linfield, I decided to get into coaching, serving as a volunteer youth coach. After graduating from Linfield I became a full time assistant coach at Wilson. I coached at Wilson from 2006-2011 serving a myriad of different roles on the football staff. I then moved onto Gig Harbor High School where I was the head coach from 2012-2016. I have surrounded myself with quality coaches to bring you the best possible experience out of Trojan football. We have already been working hard at preparing for the season and are beyond excited to add you to our football family. The 2025 season can't start soon enough as we look to add another great chapter to the Auburn football legacy.

As we get ready for the season I want all of you to know that the focus of this family moving forward is making better people. One of the things that we will discuss at length with players is what we call, "The Why." We want to know why everyone is here. What drives them, motivates them, gets them coming back. My why in everything I do is to help make better people and that's what this program will be known for. We will not measure success by wins and losses; we will measure success by the type of person that leaves this program. We fully believe that the wins and losses will take care of themselves because our focus on the process will make our product that much better, and building better people is a goal that lasts forever, not just during a football season.

I ask you all for your support as we work hard to accomplish our goals this season. It takes all of us to provide the players, parents, community, faculty, etc with a great experience and a solid program.

The next topic I wanted to address is vacations. I have been asked when is the best time to take a vacation many times, so I wanted to make sure to discuss this with everyone. I would suggest that the best time for a vacation would be in July. August is equally as challenging because that is the last push before the season officially starts and then we start practicing. In the month of July while we do weight training, skill development, etc. We only do those activities four days a week (Monday-Thursday) so there is ample time for a vacation. For those of you new to high school football, practices will be held on Labor Day so please plan accordingly.

We open the season looking to build on our successful 2024 season that saw us make the playoffs for the third year in a row. We hope to see everyone there to support the 2025 Trojans. Fight On! Process Over Product. 1% more.

Sincerely,

Aaron Chantler  
Auburn Head Football Coach

## **Auburn Football Mission Statement**

The mission of the Auburn Football Program is to provide a positive, educational, and fun environment for all athletes. By participating in the program, Auburn players will develop not only as athletes on the field but also as people off of the field. They will also learn and develop important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication and hard work.

### **As a coach or player of the Auburn Football program I am committed to:**

1. Loving my players, teammates, coaches, managers, etc.
2. Becoming a better version of myself each day I'm a member of this program.
3. Maintaining a high academic standing at all times. I know my academics are more important than my athletics.
4. Respecting the game at all times.
5. Representing Auburn High School, the Auburn Football Program, and myself with class and pride at all times both on and off the field.
6. Fulfilling my responsibilities to the program by always having a team first attitude.
7. Being committed to being the best student athlete or coach I can be.
8. Always giving 100% effort both on the field and in the classroom.

### **Auburn Football Program Goals:**

1. To develop better people first and foremost. Winning and losing will take care of itself if a solid foundation is in place for the PEOPLE in the program.
2. Play to the best of our ability at all times. We will not play down or up to our opponents, and we will set the tone with our play.
3. Respect the game, opponents, teammates, coaches and officials at all times.
4. Win each play.
5. Limit mental errors.
6. League Champions
7. District Playoffs
8. State Playoffs
9. State Champions

## Auburn Football Team Rules

- 1. Be on time – If we say be on the field at 2:30 that means 2:30, not 2:31. Respect your brothers and coaches by being on time. Being late without a reason shows us how much you care.**
2. Always compete – Nothing is going to be handed to you. Jobs are earned not given. Compete, compete, compete.
3. Work hard – Always give 110%. Practice like you play even in warm ups. If you're not giving your full effort you are cheating yourself and your brothers.
- 4. Don't miss practice – One missed practice and the player will not play in the next game. This is a safety procedure. If you miss a practice during the week then you will not be physically ready to play on Friday. Your safety is our top priority. If an emergency arises (family illness, death/funeral, etc) coaches will handle that on an individual basis.**
5. Be classy/professional/respectful on and off the field – We are representing Auburn High School and Auburn Football both on and off the field, it is a privilege to be a Trojan, treat it as such.
6. If a player is late, he/she needs a note from a teacher/doctor/etc AND needs to tell the coaches in advance.
- 7. If a player is going to miss practice we need to hear it from the player, not a friend/teammate/etc.**
8. Players must maintain an academic standing that meets all WIAA standards.
9. If a player is late, regardless if it's excused or unexcused, the player will have to do extra conditioning. This is not a punishment, but a necessary step for the player to get warmed up and catch up with his teammates.
- 10. Players must be moving at all times. We DO NOT WALK on the field, we run from station to station, drill to drill. We move way too fast on Friday nights to walk during practice. If we want to run 70 plays a game then we have to move even faster at practice.**
11. Be respectful to coaches, teammates, teachers, parents, administrators, etc on and off the field. If we find out a player is conducting himself in a manner that we find to be disrespectful, punishment will follow. Punishment will likely include extra conditioning and at least a half-game suspension depending on the severity of the situation.
12. Fighting, drinking, drug/tobacco use will not be tolerated. If a player is caught doing any of the aforementioned things, it will result in an immediate suspension or dismissal from the team.
13. If you have a doctor/dentist/etc appointment you still need to be at the field until the time of your appointment or once you get back from your appointment.
- 14. If you are injured you still need to be at practice to support your team. You will be at practice in proper clothing (practice jersey, helmet - unless injury is a concussion - shorts, sweats, etc) to support your teammates.**
15. For attendance policies on game days please consult the district's athletic code.
- 16. On game days players will wear a shirt and tie at school (there will be one or two games a year in which the players will be allowed to wear jerseys that will be voted on by the seniors).**

**“The Focus is Always Us – It's about us getting ready to play. It's not about the other team. We'll beat ourselves before they beat us. That's always our approach.”**

**Pete Carroll**

## Program Organization

Program organization is something that we as a staff will pride ourselves in. Football is important, but we are aware that both players and coaches have other responsibilities and commitments that need to be honored as well; therefore, we will always have a plan to make the most out of the time we have. We don't want to have a meeting just to have a meeting, we want to have a plan, and leave the meeting feeling like we have accomplished everything that we set out to do. The same is true for practices. We want our players to understand that everything we do has a purpose. Program organization starts at the top with the head coach, but has to have staff buy in as well as staff support and follow through. There is a reason why it's a coaching staff and not just one coach. Every assistant coach is just as important as the head coach. Assistant coaches will assist in the program organization, as each coach will have a specified role. Again, it is vital that all coaches, regardless of title, work together and have equal responsibilities.

The chain of command for our program is simple, if an issue arises this is how we wish to deal with it:

1. Position Coach
2. Coordinator
3. Head Coach
4. Athletic Director
5. Principal
6. District Athletic Director

We have an open door policy with our staff, and we don't want our program to just consist of players and coaches. We want staff, faculty, the community and most importantly families to be a part of the Auburn Football family. Community and parental involvement, coupled with the efforts of the players and coaches will lead us to becoming a unified and supportive program.

With this said there are some things we ask of our parents: The first thing we ask is that you do not approach us on a game day or after the game to discuss situations/issues. Emotions are at their highest before or after a game, so we ask that we let things settle down before talking. The second thing we ask is that we do not discuss playing time. The coaches are hired to handle playing time issues and that is a conversation that usually becomes highly emotional and can sometimes get out of hand, so instead we would be more than willing to discuss how the player can earn more playing time by discussing skills and techniques that need improvement. We encourage the players to come to us first to discuss these things, but would be more than happy to set up a meeting with the player and parent(s) to discuss any situation. We just ask that when these meetings take place we only focus on the player in the meeting. When things are said like, "My son is so much better than player x..." that causes division amongst the team and we are trying to build a unified program. At times parents will want to discuss things with us involving their player but they don't want their player to know they are emailing/calling/etc, we ask for that not to happen. We have a simple protocol that we ask all to follow because we believe in transparency. We want the players to know EXACTLY what is going on at all times, again, we are happy to sit down and talk, but that must include ALL parties. We don't believe in not being up front with our players. We also ask that if a player or parent(s) is bothered by something, please don't let it boil up inside. We want to deal with situations immediately so we can come up with a plan to improve things. When things boil inside then frustrations rise which leads to unhappiness and we don't want that. We want to meet issues head on so they can be dealt with. Our last thing we ask is to just remember that we are a team and that is important. We fully expect and want you to support your child, but we also want you to support the program. At home support your child, at the games support the team.